



Pacific Partnership 2019 Concludes Mission Stop in Philippines

From Pacific Partnership 2019 Public Affairs

TACLOBAN, Philippines (NNS) -- Senior mission leadership, host nation and partner nation personnel attended the closing ceremony of the second Pacific Partnership 2019 (PP19) mission stop in Tacloban, Philippines, March 22.

"Each Pacific Partnership line of effort -- engineering, medical, host nation outreach, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief -- has been instrumental in working alongside their Philippine counterparts for a greater good," said Capt. Randy Van Rossum, commodore, Destroyer Squadron 1, the mission commander for Pacific Partnership 2019. "They've worked collaboratively to enhance host nation capability, build regional relationships and exercise a collective ability to respond to disaster emergencies."

During the two-week mission stop in the Philippines, U.S., partner nation military members and non-governmental organization volunteers conducted more than 40 subject matter expert exchanges, worked more than 1,500 hours on two evacuation center construction projects, hosted 15 U.S. Pacific Fleet and host nation band performances, engaged with more than 7,000 Tacloban students and residents, and included more than 300 personnel in the final collaborative disaster relief exercise.

"Alone we can do so little," said Jerry Yaokasin, vice mayor of the city of Tacloban. "But we've proven here that together, all of us, we can do so much."

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TACLOBAN, Philippines "Senior U.S and Philippine leaders at the Pacific Partnership 2019 closing ceremony pose for a photo. Pacific Partnership, now in its 14th iteration, is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Each year the mission team works collectively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase security and stability in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Nicholas Burgains)

Biggest int'l pyromusical show in Clark



PYROMUSICAL SHOW. Canada paints the night sky with bursting colors, with its very own "Fireworks Spectaculars" during the ongoing 10th Philippine International Pyromusical Competition (PIPC) at the SM Clark in Pampanga. (Photo by Marna Dagumbay del Rosario)

CLARK FREEPORT, Pampanga -- The 10th Philippine International Pyromusical Competition (PIPC) has wowed thousands of spectators since its first weekend show last February 23.

Touted to be the grandest and biggest international pyromusical competition, the annual event - which was moved from the SM Mall of Asia to SM City Clark - will be held until March 30.

SM Supermalls' decision to move the competition to SM Clark is in full support of the ongoing Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

SM City Clark Mall manager Andrea Francesca Madlangbayan said the PIPC has entries from 10 countries, which take on a battle of breathtaking fireworks performances amid a symphony of sounds.

The contenders are Germany's, Steffes-Ollig Feuerwerke; Belgium's CBF Pyrotechnics; Portugal's Pirotecnia Minhota; France's Brezac Artifices; Finland's Oy Pyroma; Viviano S.R.L. of Italy; United Kingdom's Pyrotex Fireworks; Canada's Fireworks Spectaculars; China's Polaris Fireworks and Poland's Surex Firma Rodzinna.

Last weekend, it was Canada's turn to paint the night sky with bursting colors, with its very own "Fireworks Spectaculars". The contender from China likewise stunned the huge crowd.

During the opening day last month, the Philippines' very own Platinum Fireworks Inc. took the sky and opened the festival with an amazing drone exhibition show. Belgium's CBF Pyrotechnics then presented its entry that left the spectators in awe.

see PYROMUSICAL SHOW, page 02

RJG to hospitals: "Don't follow Baypointe's footsteps"

Senator Richard J. Gordon warned both public and private hospitals against committing unjust practices or they could also be sanctioned like the ACE Medical Center -- Baypointe in the Subic Freeport which he lodged a complaint against before the Department of Health.

Gordon said the DOH has revoked its permit to operate blood service facilities and ordered the downgrading of the said hospital from being a second level medical facility to mere infirmary since second level hospitals are required to maintain a blood service facility to maintain its current level.

"Baypointe was found to be liable for violating various administrative orders pertaining to the dispensation of blood, hence it's license to operate a blood service facility was revoked prompting its downgrading. As a consequence, the hospital could not accept new admissions to its intensive care unit, neonatal intensive care unit and its high-risk pregnancy unit once the downgrading is implemented.

Current patients at the ICU, NICU, HRPV of the hospital will be continuously managed and treated at their respective

areas for humanitarian consideration.

Gordon wrote a letter to the DOH after getting a complaint that the hospital billed an ICU patient almost P200,000 for blood and blood services alone. Not only did it charge exorbitant fees for blood, it also required blood coming from the Philippine Red Cross to be re-tested.

The Blood Manual of Baypointe states that all blood products from another facility shall be tested. In their letter of explanation, they admitted that they have been conducting retesting of blood products coming from another blood service facility. The DOH said this is a clear violation of the department's existing rules and regulations on prohibition on re-testing of blood products obtained from a licensed blood center.

"This should serve as a warning to all hospitals -- both public and private. Stop committing unjust practices, such as charging exorbitant fees for blood, requiring re-testing of blood coming from the PRC, among others. Don't add any more burden to your patients. Adhere to your Hippocratic Oath or you could be severely sanctioned," Gordon warned.

RDC OKs Proposed 2020 budget of Central Luzon SUCs

IBA, Zambales -- Regional Development Council (RDC) endorsed the proposed 2020 budget of the 11 state universities and colleges based in Central Luzon.

"The Budget Call for FY 2020 provides in the Expenditure Management Framework the continued adoption of the following administrative reforms for greater budget transparency and reliability: a) Annual Cash-based Budgeting System, b) Two-Tier Budgeting Approach (2TBA), c) Program-based budgeting structure through the Program Expenditure Classification Approach, and institutionalization of the Program Convergence Budgeting strategy in the budget process to link, harmonize and synchronize the timing of critical program interventions," National Economic and Development Authority Re-

gional Director and RDC Vice Chairperson Leon M. Dacanay Jr. said.

2TBA is an approach that separates evaluation of agency proposals for ongoing programs and projects (Tier 1) and new spending proposals and expansion of ongoing programs and projects (Tier 2).

"The focus of RDC's review is on agency Tier 2 proposals in terms of consistency with and responsiveness to the desired development outcomes and strategies as enunciated in the Regional Development Plan 2017-2022," Dacanay added.

Among those who got the RDC nod include Aurora State College of Technology- P229.05 million, Bataan Peninsula State University- P651.07 million, Bulacan

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U.S., Tagbilaran City Partner to Expand Access to Safe Drinking Water



Tagbilaran City officials at Tagbilaran City's World Water Day celebration, led by Mayor John Geesnell Yap (fifth from left) and joined by USAID representatives Marian Cruz-Navata (fourth from left) and Bernadette Cariaga (second from left). With USAID assistance, the city government has improved water services, including upgrading water pipes and the metering system.

Tagbilaran City— The U.S. government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), joined Tagbilaran City and Maynilad Water Services Inc. to celebrate World Water Day. The March 20 event highlighted the city's successes in improving access to safe water and reaffirmed the partnership between Tagbilaran, USAID, and Maynilad. As a result of this partnership, more than 21,500 Tagbilaran City residents now enjoy around-the-clock access to clean water. Previously, these residents only had access to water eight hours a day.

For the past two years, USAID and Maynilad have provided training and mentoring to enhance the operational and management capabilities of the Tagbilaran City Waterworks System. In April 2017, USAID and Maynilad Water Academy teamed up with the Tagbilaran City Waterworks System to improve business planning, strengthen fiscal management, and boost the efficiency of services. Through these measures, Tagbilaran City was able to collect more fees, increasing the water budget by 34 percent. The additional funding allowed Tagbilaran City to upgrade facilities and install 7.5 kilometers of new water pipes as well as 1,000 new water meters. These enhancements reduce leakage and augment the city's ability to monitor its water needs.

During the World Water Day program at the city hall, Tagbilaran City Mayor John Geesnell Yap recognized the achievements of Tagbilaran City Waterworks System, which is run by the local government. At the event, USAID Urban Planning Specialist Marian Navata noted, "USAID continues to be a committed partner of the Philippine government to expand access to safe water and support good governance in the water and sanitation sectors."

To increase access to clean water and improve water service delivery, USAID has partnered with cities across the Philippines, including Batangas, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos, Iloilo, Legazpi, Puerto Princesa, Tagbilaran, Zamboanga, and Marawi City. In partnership with the Philippine government, USAID's water and sanitation programs have provided almost 2 million Filipinos with access to safe drinking water over the last five years.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that an **EX-TRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF DECEASED PERSON WITH DEED OF RENUNCIATION AND QUITCLAIM** was made and executed by the lawful heirs and successors of the deceased **RUBEN SANTIAGO, SR. and NATIVIDAD L. SANTIAGO**, who died intestate on OCTOBER 10 and AUGUST 24, 2001 RESPECTIVELY in San Fernando City, Pampanga, Philippines as per Doc no 46, Page No. 11 Book No X Series of 2019 in the notarial registry of Atty. Juanito C. Atienza.

All interested parties, creditors and persons having money claims against the decedent are hereby required to file their claims with the court appointed executor of their estate.

AboitizPower utility sees bright prospects in franchise area

AboitizPower-led distribution utility Cotabato Light and Power Co. (CLPC) sees rosy prospects in its franchise area in the medium term as robust economic growth continues to spread across the country.

CLPC projects to grow its demand by 8.47 percent this year in anticipation of several big loads soon to be covered by its franchise area. Demand within the Cotabato-based utility grew by 14 percent to 32 MW in 2018 from 28 MW in 2017. Its customer base grew by a modest 1.3 percent from 41,110 in 2017 to 41,645 in 2018.

"We are very pleased with our growth in 2018 and maintain this trajectory moving forward. We've seen impressive economic growth in Cotabato City, driven by the government's efforts to bring in investors over the past few years," said Cotabato Light vice president and chief

operating officer Ben Caro C. Arkoncel.

These include the facilities and offices of the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, as well as a factory, mall, and hotel, among others.

Cotabato Light showed improvement in reliability, having been able to reduce the average number of interruptions each customer experiences in a year from six in 2017 to 2.5 in 2018. The utility also reduced the average duration of power interruptions in a year to 122 minutes in 2018 from 811 minutes in 2017.

This can be attributed to the installation of line reclosers and load break switches, intensification of vegetation management, augmentation of line maintenance, putting in place wildlife shields to eliminate or minimize animal intrusion of power lines, improvement of substation maintenance, and upgrading of overloaded distribution transformers, among others.

Cotabato Light's franchise area covers the city of Cotabato as well as portions of the municipalities of Datu Odin Sinsuat and Sultan Kudarat in Maguindanao. To keep up with the development within the



KEEPING UP WITH PROGRESS. Cotabato Light continues to upgrade its systems so it can support the growing power demand in its franchise area

respective franchise areas of its utilities, AboitizPower has set aside P3.1 billion to modernize its existing distribution assets across the country.

"We want to take advantage of the robust economic growth in our franchise areas by making sure power is delivered to our customers reliably, sustainably, and at the most cost-effective way. The initiatives we have mapped out for this year and beyond are part of our effort to become world-class and the best at what we do," said Jaime Jose Y. Aboitiz, chief operating officer of the AboitizPower Distribution Group.

AboitizPower is currently one of the largest electricity distributors in the Philippines with ownership interests in seven distribution utilities including the second and third largest in the country. The distribution subsidiaries of AboitizPower include Davao Light and Power Co. and Visayan Electric Company in Cebu, among others.

Through the Aboitiz Group, AboitizPower has more than 80 years of experience in the Philippine power distribution sector and has been known for innovation and efficient operations.

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TACLOBAN, Philippines " U.S. Navy Capt. Randy Van Rossum, left, Pacific Partnership 2019 (PP19) mission commander, receives a gift from Philippine Navy Rear Adm. Samuel Felix, Armed Forces of the Philippines, J9, deputy chief of staff, during the PP19 closing ceremony to conclude the Philippines mission stop. Pacific Partnership, now in its 14th iteration, is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Each year the mission team works collectively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase security and stability in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Nicholas Burgains)

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PYROMUSICAL.....from page 01

On March 2, Germany's "Steffes-Ollihmg Feuerwerke" and Portugal's "Pirotecni Minhota" treated the crowd with their tradition and mastery of skills in the sky.

Last March 9, Clark skyline witnessed the France's "Brezac Artifices," followed by a burst of vibrant colors by Finland's Oy Pyroman.

Italy's very own Viviano S.R.L. and last year's champion, United Kingdom's "Pyrotez Fireworx" battled it out last March 16.

Capping off the competition and to close a decade of giving the best pyromusical exhibition in the Philippines, March 30 promises to be the most spectacular display of colors and surprises with Poland's Surex Firma Rodzinna and the Philippines' own Platinum Fireworks Inc. in a grand finale like no other.

"The finale will be featuring the Philippines and it will be the culmination of the biggest pyromusical in the world," Madlangbayan said.

Aside from the pyro musical competition, the annual PIPC also highlights a photo contest, which features entries from amateur and professional photographers - wherein winners will receive special prizes from PIPC partners and sponsors. (PNA)

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Agricultural State College-P390.41 million, Bulacan State University-P1.81 billion, Central Luzon State University-P1.09 billion, and Don Honorio Ventura State University-P536.82 million.

Also, Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology-P683.53 million, Philippine Merchant Marine Academy-P429.54 million, President Ramon Magsaysay State University- P553.97 million, Tarlac Agricultural University-P666.81 million, and Tarlac State University-P809.37 million. (CLJD-PIA 3)



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AROUND CENTRAL LUZON

Ph Army Marksmanship Assessment and Evaluation



A total of 73 soldiers participated in this year's Philippine Army Marksmanship Assessment and 33 represented Luzon, 15 for Visayas and 25 represented Mindanao. (Cherie Joyce V. Flores)

CAPAS, Tarlac -- Philippine Army conducted a Marksmanship Assessment and Evaluation (PMAE) in time for this year's Asean Armies Rifle Meet (AARM).

"PMAE serves as an avenue and platform in selecting the next best shooters of the Army and to compete locally and internationally particularly in the AARM and to augment as instructors of the Marksmanship Training School," Training and Doctrine Command (TRA-DOC) Commander Major General Roy Devesa said.

"For this year, there were 73 participants from the Philippine Army Major Units wherein 33 represented Luzon, 15 for Visayas and 25 represented Mindanao," he added.

The shooters competed in various categories including pistol match

for men and women, rifle event, carbine match and machine gun match.

All contingents underwent series of matches in accordance with the regulations set by the AARM.

"The success of this event has paved a very effective way in assessing and evaluating the Army's marksmanship capability. The procedures were highly challenging which enhanced the skills and competence of our potential shooters," Devesa stressed.

"Tradoc, being the primary unit responsible for the Marksmanship Training of the Philippine Army will continuously improve its training program through the conduct of assessment and evaluation towards the empowerment of our troops," he furthered. (PIA 3)

RDC approves extension of Balog-Balog Phase II Project



Regional Development Council passed a resolution endorsing the proposed implementation extension and changes in scopes of work of the Balog-Balog Multi-Purpose Project Phase II in Tarlac. (Trixie Joy B. Manalili/PIA 3 File Photo)

IBA, Zambales. -- Regional Development Council (RDC) passed a resolution endorsing the proposed implementation extension and changes in scopes of work of the Balog-Balog Multi-Purpose Project Phase II (BBMP II) in Tarlac.

With an original target completion date of December 2018, BBMP II experienced delays in implementation as reflected by its low physical and financial accomplishments of 25.71 percent and 31.70 percent respectively.

"Severe weather conditions, resettlement concerns, and right-of-way issues hampered the timely completion of the project. As such, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) requested the Investment Coordination Committee for the approval of the project's implementation extension from 2018 to 2022," Na-

tional Economic and Development Authority Regional Director and RDC Vice Chairperson Leon M. Dacanay Jr. said.

This P13.37 billion project will provide year-round irrigation services to about 34,500 hectares at full development and improve cropping intensity from one to at least two seasons per year benefiting about 23,000 famers in the province of Tarlac.

It will improve rice yield from 3.1 metric tons per hectare under rain-fed conditions to 5.2 metric tons per hectare under irrigated conditions.

"To optimize the project benefits, NIA proposed additional scopes of work to provide irrigation services in upland areas of San Jose town covering about 24,000 hectares," Dacanay added. (PIA 3)

BALITA SA WIKANG PINOY

Bumababa kaso ng tigdas sa Gitnang Luzon

LUNGSOD NG SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga -- Patuloy ang pagbaba ng kaso ng tigdas sa Gitnang Luzon sa nakalipas na tatlo hanggang apat na linggo.

Ayon kay Department of Health o DOH Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit Head Dr. Jessie Fantone, kung pagsasama-samahin ang mga kaso ay pataas ang mga ito ngunit kung ita-tally araw-araw ay makikita ang patuloy na pagbaba ng kaso hanggang sa mapababa ito sa kahalintulad na bilang noong nakaraang taon.

Dahil ito aniya sa pinaigting na Measles Outbreak Response Immunization o MORI na isinagawa ng DOH at iba pang mga ahensya, kung saan ang 405,101 na populasyon o 117 porsiyento ng target ay nabakunahan kontra tigdas sa buong rehiyon.

Ayon naman kay DOH Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Health Medical Officer IV Dr. Maila Rostata, simula noong Pebrero 12 ay nag-deklara na sila ng code white at bumuo ng pitong grupong nakahandang ipadala sa mga prayoridad na lugar sa rehiyon na apektado ng tigdas.

Dagdag niya, naka-alerto din ang mga pampublikong ospital upang tanggapin at gamutin ang mga pasyenteng may tigdas.

Bukod dito, tumulong din ang mga kawani ng mga ospital sa malawakang pagbabakuna sa iba't ibang sektor gaya ng mga katutubo.

Ayon sa DOH, malaki rin ang naitulong ng iba't-ibang ahensya ng pamahalaan sa pagkontrol sa outbreak.

Kabilang sa mga pagsisikap ng mga ito ang paglulunsad ng Rejuvenated Oplan Ligas Tigdas sa pamamagitan ng Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council kung saan nakuha ng DOH ang suporta ng mga ahensya sa pamamagitan ng pag-volunteer sa pagbabakuna at pagbibigay ng tulong para maabot ang mga liblib na pamayanan.

Dagdag pa ni DOH Local Health Support Division Chief Dr. Lailani Mangulabnan, malaki rin ang naitulong ng iba't ibang inisyatibo tulad ng pakikipagpulong sa mga lokal na punong ehekutibo, pagbibigay ng Vitamin A supplements at paggamit ng quad-media para sa epektibong pagsawata sa virus.

Gayunpaman, sa kabila ng bumabagang kaso ng tigdas, tiniyak ng DOH sa publiko ang patuloy na pagbabakuna kontra rito.

Ayon sa DOH, may naitalang 4,049 kaso ng tigdas sa rehiyon noong Marso 24, kung saan ang mga probinsya ng Bulacan, Pampanga at Tarlac ang may pinakamataas na kaso. Walumpu't anim sa mga ito ang namatay.

Dahil dito, patuloy na hinihikayat ng DOH ang mga ina at tagapag-alaga na dalhin ang kanilang mga anak sa mga pagamutan upang pabakunahan sila. (PIA 3)

Istasyon ng PNR ang Clark Terminal 2



Ipinapaliwanag ni Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade (may hawak ng mikropono), sa ginawang inspeksyon sa progreso ng konstruksyon ng Terminal 2 ng Clark International Airport, na magiging istasyon mismo ng Philippine National Railways Clark ang ilalim ng paliparan. Ito ang magiging kauna-unahang airport-railway link ng bansa. (Shane F. Velasco)



Makikita sa larawan ang rendisyon ng arkitekto sa magiging kabuuang disenyo ng ginagawang Terminal 2 ng Clark International Airport. Target itong buksan sa taong 2020 bilang pinakabagong premiere gateway ng Pilipinas sa Asya. (Megawide Corporation)

CLARK FREEPORT ZONE, Pampanga -- Magiging istasyon ng Philippine National Railways o PNR Clark ang ilalim ng ginagawang Terminal 2 ng Clark International Airport o CRK.

Ayon kay Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade, ito ang magiging kauna-unahang airport-railway link ng bansa kung saan magiging 24 oras ang biyahe ng tren kasabay ng operasyon ng paliparan.

Ang PNR Clark ay binubuo ng dalawang bahagi: ang 38 km Phase 1 mula Tutuban sa Maynila hanggang Malolos sa Bulacan at 53 km Phase 2 mula Malolos hanggang Clark.

Sa detalye ng proyekto, elevated railways system ang magiging istraktura ng mula Malolos hanggang paglagpas ng

San Fernando sa Pampanga.

Pagdating sa Clark, dadaan na ito sa ilalim ng lupa o sa isang tunnel hanggang makarating sa CRK station na nasa ilalim ng Terminal 2.

Sa pagkukumpleto ng proyektong riles ng tren na nagkakahalaga ng P628 bilyon, kaya nitong makapaglulan ng 550,000 pasahero araw-araw.

Bukod dito, ang kasalukuyang byahe na halos dalawang oras mula Clark hanggang Tutuban ay magiging 45 minuto na lamang.

Sinabi pa ni Tugade na mauunang matapos ang konstruksyon ng bagong terminal ng CRK sa 2020 na susundan ng pag-andar ng tren sa ilalim nito sa 2022. (PIA 3)

IN THE NAVY

Pacific Partnership 2019 Field Training Exercise in Philippines



TACLOBAN, Philippines. "Members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Disaster Response Unit cut a hole in a concrete slab during a field training exercise at the Tacloban North Public Market that simulated a response to a notional 8.5-magnitude earthquake. This exercise is the capstone humanitarian assistance and disaster response event of the PP19 visit to the Philippines. Pacific Partnership, now in its 14th iteration, is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Each year the mission team works collectively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase security and stability in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Nathan Carpenter)

TACLOBAN, Philippines (NNS) -- Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief planners, medical personnel and engineers from Pacific Partnership 2019 (PP19) came together with Philippine servicemembers, local medical professionals, police, firefighters and community volunteers at the Tacloban City Market for a field training exercise (FTX) where participants responded to a simulated 8.5-magnitude earthquake, March 21.

The FTX is the capstone event after two weeks of intensive training designed to enhance local and multilateral capabilities to respond to disasters and to facilitate cooperation between forces from participating partner nations.

"Learning how to integrate and really bolster the local community's capability allows us to build not only a partnership, but a lasting effort for the community, improving our ability to respond to disasters both individually and collectively," said Lt. Cmdr. Eric Hardy, Navy liaison and representative at the Joint Enroute Care Schoolhouse.

While the earthquake was simulated, it allowed participants to practice several key techniques to use in the event of a future disaster, including search and rescue, triage, logistics, shoring of damaged buildings, and disaster planning and management.

"This is a scenario with a high probability of happening in this region, considering that we have a lot of earthquake generators -- part of this province lies along the Philippine fault zone, and we are also facing the Philippine trench," said Ray Gozon, regional director of the Office of Civil Defense.

In addition to professional agencies, 150 local volunteers participated in the event as role players, serving as disaster victims to enhance the realistic nature of the scenario and the effectiveness of the training.

"This is one of the biggest events that I have ever seen in the 16 years of my career," said Master Sgt. Ging Yeung, one of the planners for the exercise. "There is a tremendous amount of coordination between civilian and military units that allows them to better understand the big picture and their role in facing a disaster."

Pacific Partnership, now in its 14th iteration, is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Each year, the mission team works collectively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase stability and security in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific.



PHILIPPINE SEA. An F-35B Lightning II aircraft assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 121 is secured on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) in the Philippine Sea, March 24, 2019. Wasp, flagship of Wasp Amphibious Ready Group, is operating in the Indo-Pacific region to enhance interoperability with partners and serve as a ready-response force for any type of contingency. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Daniel Barker)



PHILIPPINE SEA. Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 3rd Class Robert Bell directs a Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft as it lands on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) in the Philippine Sea, March 25, 2019. Wasp, flagship of Wasp Amphibious Ready Group, is operating in the Indo-Pacific region to enhance interoperability with partners and serve as a ready-response force for any type of contingency. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Sean Galbreath)



DTI Consumer Corner at SM City Olongapo



The DTI Consumer Corner Launching was spearheaded by DTI Zambales Provincial Director Leonila Baluyut (in black), SM Olongapo Mall Manager Mark Herrera (in checkered) and Olongapo Consumer Affairs Council President Roger Castillejo (in yellow).



Affiliates and tenants were present in the DTI Customer Corner Launching.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in partnership with SM City Olongapo, has launched the Consumer Corner Program recently to widen the access of the general public to consumer-related information and avenues for redress.

According to DTI, this program will enable consumers to become wiser, more vigilant, and empowered. "The Consumer Corner Program is a partnership project with business establishments that aims to strengthen and promote consumer welfare and protection by providing an information desk that is strategically located inside retail stores where consumers can gain access to consumer-related information materials of the DTI."

"We are in full support of this project for the benefit of our customers and we are truly honored to be chosen as one of the venues of this noble project," remarked Mark Herrera, SM Olongapo Mall Manager.

It's important that customers are well-informed so that they are protected. DTI and SM aim to provide accessible, relevant and useful information to the customers about their rights and protection. That is why DTI has intensify its advocacy efforts by providing Consumer Corners in every establishment nationwide.

Present during the launching were DTI-Zambales Provincial Director Leonila Baluyut, Olongapo Consumer Affairs Council President Roger Castillejo and SM Olongapo Mall Manager Mark Herrera.

Consumer Corner can be found at the Ground Floor Information Booth counter of SM Olongapo and Customer Service Counter of SM Supermarket.

For more consumer-relation information, visit the DTI website (www.dti.gov.ph) or contact DTI Consumer Care 1-384 (1-DTI) and ConsumerCare@dti.gov.ph.